Vol. 6 No. 4

National Congress Bulletin

NATIONAL CONGRESS OF PARENTS AND TEACHERS
1201 Sixteenth Street, N. W., Washington, D. C.

DECEMBER 1938

Christmas Greetings

I am glad that this Christmas season gives me an opportunity to extend to you and to all members of the association my warm personal greetings. Together we are remembering childhood. Together we are voicing our great hope for a world at peace. Together we are seeking an answer to the call of today through service to the child and love for humanity. May we find joy and satisfaction in knowing that our parent-teacher work together embodies those ideals which mark the true spirit of Christmas.

Frances S. Pettengill

President,
National Congress of Parents and Teachers.

GROWING IN NUMBERS

The close of the year brings good news concerning the increasing number of individuals who are identifying themselves with our great organization. A very large number of local associations have increased their membership. In many localities new Congress units are being formed. Hundreds of thousands of members are demonstrating their loyalty to the cause of childhood and youth, as well as their faith in this movement, by renewing their membership in local associations. This notable increase in numbers means an increase in opportunity and in achievement to every local in the National Congress.

WINGS FOR THE MARTINS

New National Radio Series Begins . . . . .

"WINGS FOR THE MARTINS" is the title of a new radio series which is to be presented by the National Congress of Parents and Teachers and the U. S. Office of Education. The programs began on November 16 and are broadcast each Wednesday from 9:30 to 10:00 p. m., Eastern Standard Time, over the blue network of the National Broadcasting Company.

A typical American family, the Martins, is the medium for introducing real life situations. Many daily dramas which occur in the average American home, school, and community will be presented. The Martin family consists of the father, Arnold Martin, a hardware merchant; Myra Martin, the devoted mother of four young Martins who dramatize the differences among children: independent, 12-year-old Jimmy, who runs away to start his career; 17-year-old Patricia, known as Patty, a senior in highschool; affectionate, 9-year-old Barbara, Jimmy's fierce little defender; and spirited, 5-year-old Dicky in kindergarten.

Throughout the entire series of broadcasts emphasis will be placed on how the home and school can work together in aiding each child to develop in his own way. The means used to help the Martin children will be suggestive of methods that can be applied in every home and every school.

The first broadcast on November 16 was on the subject "Jimmy Runs Away." Many questions were raised: Why did Jimmy rebel against the routine at school? Should his parents have imposed some home discipline? Should Barbara have informed her parents about Jimmy's plans? Will Jimmy now have an opportunity to become a geologist, and in so doing will he be allowed to neglect spelling and fractions?

The second broadcast was on the subject "Children Are Persons!" Did the school really help Jimmy? How can school and home work together to discover children's individual interests? Can the discipline of the modern school be applied at home? Should the parents wait for trouble before visiting the principal and teachers?

Tune In and Find Out

November 30
EVERYBODY JOINS A CLUB
When nine-year-old Barbara wants to join a new club, does she win her family's approval? How does she decide what club to join? What do young children do in clubs?

December 7
LET'S GIVE THEM BOOKS
Do you know what kind of picture books will interest children too young to read? Do you know what to give to older children who like tales of adventure?

December 14
KEEPING THE FAMILY WELL
The Martins experience a practical lesson in health. They learn that good health is not a gift from the gods but a "way of living." It comes from sticking to daily practise of correct physical and mental habits.

December 21
SHE HASN'T A THING TO WEAR!
How many times have you heard a daughter exclaim, "I haven't a thing to wear!" and push aside one dress after another . . . dresses that look perfectly good to you? You'll like Patricia's idea of the "well-dressed girl."

December 28
NO FUN AT HOME
Can your family enjoy an evening at home? Do you know any games for the family to play together? What fun is there in a family chorus?

Signposts and Guides

INTERPRETING THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES OF PARENT-TEACHER ASSOCIATIONS

"A CONGRESS parent-teacher association undertakes only such activities for money-raising and entertainment as have social and educational value to the members; avoiding gambling, exploitation of children, and any form of entertainment which is detrimental to character."—FROM THE GUIDING PRINCIPLES

A YEARLY EVENT

Money-raising is included in the year's program of activities of many parent-teacher associations. Frequently it has a necessary place in the parent-teacher program. One money-raising entertainment a year, as early in the school year as possible, should be sufficient to provide for the annual parent-teacher budget. Such a financial plan enables the association to keep the local portion of membership dues at a minimum.

PLAN THE BUDGET

Information in the *Parent-Teacher Manual* for the budget and finance committee should be studied before the budget committee draws up its proposed plan for the year and before the entertainment committee plans too elaborate a money-raising venture or too many of them. This budget usually provides for expenditures that will be needed for routine administration work, committee activities, council dues, subscriptions, parent-teacher bookshelf, and delegates' expenses to state, district, and council meetings. After approval by the executive committee the proposed budget is presented to the association for discussion and adoption.

CONSULT SCHOOL AUTHORITIES

If the principal of the school or his representative is a member of the executive committee, the proposed financial plan is understood in advance by the school authorities. This prevents the association from planning undesirable and unnecessary expenditures for material aid to the school when such needs could be supplied from legitimate public funds.

SOCIAL AND EDUCATIONAL VALUES

Money-raising activities should have social and educational value. One man was heard to remark that he had made many friends during the rehearsals and on the night of the money-raising entertainment. Needless to say, that man has become an interested, participating member since he had this opportunity to meet a group of the members in an informal, friendly way.

At the close of an elaborate, successful international pageant, a foreign-born mother remarked, "Why can't we always be as appreciative of each other and as friendly toward each other as we have been while preparing for this pageant?" This association, with its foreign-born members from many foreign countries, will work together more understandingly for the future American citizens who will emerge from the many backgrounds in that community because of this social opportunity in the P.T.A.

TIMELY SUGGESTIONS

Money-raising activities are, however, primarily for financial return. The selection of the entertainment should be based upon an expected financial return commensurate with the time, energy, and effort put forth; and an understanding of the type of entertainment most enjoyed by the community. The time, place, and date often affect the financial result. In some communities the various groups interested in money-raising ventures compare their proposed dates for these ventures in order to prevent a duplication of dates or a listing of dates too close together.

WARNING SIGNALS

The noncommercial policy to be observed by Congress P.T.A.'s must be recognized and faithfully and loyally followed. A careful avoidance of the selection of any form of entertainment detrimental to character or out of keeping with the social background of the community will prevent the money-raising activity from lowering community standards and community evaluation of parent-teacher standards.

Exploitation of the talented child or groups of children on programs under professional or semi-professional auspices should be avoided, inasmuch as such use of child talent conflicts with an accepted purpose of the National Congress relating to the "welfare of children and youth." Any entertainment should be so planned as not to interfere with scheduled school activities. Money-raising activities should not absorb so much time, thought, and effort that other activities are neglected and the attention of members diverted from the main purposes of the association.

WHAT SHALL WE DO?

Plays, pageants, musicals, exhibits, fairs, style shows, lectures, ball games, sales, parties, field days, breakfasts, lunches, teas, and dinners can be developed in many ways to provide entertainment and to secure funds. Books and pamphlets which contain suggestions for new and novel types of entertainment are available from many library and recreation centers.

FINAL TEST

Definite social, educational, and financial values are the tests of a successful money-raising activity for parent-teacher associations.

About Publications

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Account Book—Keeping accurate accounts in a parent-teacher association does not necessarily require a trained accountant. The duties of a treasurer are clearly outlined in the *Parent-Teacher Manual*, and now the National Congress is offering an account book which will simplify the keeping of all records of moneys received and moneys disbursed. Ten practical guides preface the book and offer helpful suggestions; pads of receipt forms included in the set make possible a complete record of all transactions. Summary pages are also provided for quick checking and auditing.

The price of the five-piece set, which includes an account book and a receipt book cover bound in blue cloth with the Congress seal in gold, and three receipt book fillers, is 75c. Separately they are: account book, 50c; receipt book cover, 15c; fillers, 5c each.

Order through your state office.

Parent-Teacher News

THIS MONTH'S ITEMS ARE RELATED TO ACTIVITIES WHICH MAY BE UNDERTAKEN TO RAISE MONEY

Family Life Program

A YEAR'S program centering around the theme, "A More Unified and Democratic Family Life," is planned by one unit. One means of developing the theme is the stimulation of interest in hobbies within the home. The school is cooperating in the shop, art, and sewing departments.

A hobby show and school exhibit, in which children, as well as parents and teachers will participate, will close the year's program in June.

Art Program

AN ART appreciation program is being sponsored by another association in an effort to make its members more art conscious. Exhibits of art masterpieces, for which an admission fee is charged, constitute an important feature of the project. Study and discussion groups are presenting art as existing not only in paintings, but in all phases of everyday living. Special emphasis is being placed on art in homemaking.

Hobby Show

A LEISURE time exhibit in which students participated, was sponsored recently by a junior highschool unit. The object of the exhibit was to encourage worthy use of leisure time by boys and girls, and to stimulate interest in hobbies which might be continued in later years. Many types of collections and achievements were represented in the exhibits. Collections of stamps, coins, and minerals; needlework of all kinds; wood and soap carvings; airplane and boat models; drawings and paintings; mounted birds; and other entries representing the interests of teen-age boys and girls were shown. Visitors to the exhibit were charged an admission fee.

Substitute Entertainment

BECAUSE CHILDREN in the community spend an undue amount of their leisure time in motion picture theatres, one association is planning a series of entertainment features which will combine education with recreation. Included in the series are a play, a traveling lecture, an orchestral concert, and an operetta, all of which will add to the funds of the unit. The cultural opportunities offered under this project have vast possibilities in supplementing the school program.

About Publications

Parent-Teacher Bookshelf—If you are called upon to speak or write on any one of the phases of work carried on by a local Congress parent-teacher association, first consult your *Index to Congress Publications;* then go to your parent-teacher bookshelf.

If your association provides annually in the budget for the purchase of new materials, you will have wide selection. If yours is a new association, or the materials are few and scattered, now is the time to start a parent-teacher bookshelf. Select your materials from the *Publications Announcement* according to your interests and needs, and use the special discounts offered.

The following selection offers material of interest to discussion leaders, program committees, and teacher members:

Manual
Changing Patterns for Group Living
Our Homes
Our Public Schools
A New Force in Education
P. E. Yearbooks, 3rd and 4th
National Parent-Teacher

A bookshelf grows rapidly if added to regularly.

Pet Show

A PET show was sponsored as part of the program of one association. The outer court of the school grounds was the locale of the show, and children were encouraged to bring all types of pets, the only requirement being that the pet must be clean and healthy. The pets entered in the show varied in size and kind from tiny pollywogs to a Shetland pony.

Winter Sports Program

WINTER SPORTS activities for children and young people of various age groups are being sponsored by one unit. Weekend skating, hiking, and skiing parties are especially popular with the highschool students.

A snow slide and a skating rink have been erected by another association, which plans a winter frolic in February. The snow slide is popular with the youngsters who have no skates. Broomball and hockey are also played on the skating rink at stated times.

"Back-to-School Night"

"BACK-TO-SCHOOL NIGHT" is sponsored annually in a junior highschool association for the purpose of familiarizing each parent with his child's school schedule. A shortened schedule of classes is put on by the school, and each parent visits his child's classes for a few minutes. Students serve as ushers, guides, hosts, and hostesses. At the end of the evening each parent has a new conception of his child's day at school. A social hour at which parents and teachers have an opportunity to become better acquainted closes the evening.

Corn Husking

A CORN husking was staged by a rural association as a means of raising money. Several farmers in the community donated corn to the association provided the members would husk it. Several bushels of corn were husked and sold at a good profit to the association.

Financial Guide

THESE TWO items are found in one association's financial guide:

- No association funds shall be used for the purpose of personal gifts to officers.
- Raffles shall not be used as a means for raising funds for parent-teacher work.

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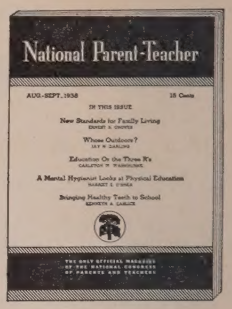
Our National Magazine



Speaking of Christmas

"JOHN, I walked home today with Margaret Anderson and we talked about plans for Christmas. She rather surprised me when she said they always give several subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*. It never occurred to me before to think of it as a Christmas present, but the more I do, the more I like the idea. Remember the time we had last year deciding what to give to the Alcotts and Brownells? We didn't want to spend a whole lot on their presents and we did want to give them something special, something appropriate. Jane Alcott's boy will soon be ready for school and we do want her in the P.T.A., so what do you think about giving her a subscription?"

"Good idea! It's a good magazine and it certainly will be a reminder that we do have a P.T.A. in the town."

"Yes, that's what I thought. And how about the Brownells? Don't you think they would enjoy reading it too?"

"Yes, and I think Tom Brownell will read it and get something out of it. He's interested in doing things for the young folks and is community-minded. I'll bet he would get a real 'kick' out of some of these articles.

"To tell you the truth, Mary, I like the magazine a lot. It seems to be looking ahead, dealing more with problems of parent-teacher concern. After reading an issue now-a-days I wish you had more of the meetings in the evening, for I'd like to hear some of the articles discussed."

"John, that settles it. We'll put both families down for subscriptions to the *National Parent-Teacher*."

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SUBSCRIPTIONS to the *National Parent-Teacher* will be welcomed by people who have children, who teach, or who take part in community activities related to the welfare of children and youth. Those in foreign lands will welcome it too, for they are always delighted to get magazines from home.

An attractive gift card bearing the name of the donor will be sent to all who receive the *National Parent-Teacher* as a Christmas gift.

National Parent-Teacher,
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Washington, D. C.

Preview of December Issue

Recreation and World Peace — If recreation wisely guided may become one of the great forces of good citizenship, may it also be directed so as to contribute to world citizenship and to world peace? It is this timely question which George Hjelte attempts to answer, suggesting means by which international cooperation, sympathy, and brotherhood may become a reality.

Preparing Our Children for Marriage — What parallel can be drawn between being a successful farmer and being a successful husband, or parent? Robert Foster makes some interesting statements concerning this question. He also discusses what he considers necessary to insure the family security and individual happiness which make for a successful marriage.

The Call of the Gang — Breathes there a child with soul so dead who never has answered to the *call of the gang?* Afton Smith describes to parents and teachers the child's need for the gang and the satisfactions he may derive from belonging to a group.

The Needs of the Child — Every parent understands the child's need for food, warmth, and protection. But what of his need for love, affection, and security? Lawrence K. Frank discusses this question for parents and teachers, pointing out to them their opportunity to build a saner and happier future for the individual and for society.

The Citizen Goes to School — That most of the readers of the *National Parent-Teacher* believe in democracy and that it will continue is the assertion of Harold E. Jones who discusses what is involved in training children for citizenship in a modern democracy.

Society's Gifts for Today's Children — Long ago wise men brought gifts to honor childhood. Today a wise society brings priceless gifts to *all* children by safeguarding the health of mothers and their babies. Society's contribution is ably presented by Dr. Fred L. Adair and Dr. Edith L. Potter.

Other Articles and Features: "Troubles and Teamwork" by Lydia V. Swanson; and "We Are Foster Parents" by Yula S. Moore. . . . Mrs. John E. Hayes contributes the Editorial, Mrs. Francis H. Blake, the fourth article on the "Guiding Principles."

CHRISTMAS nears and we turn our eyes blurred by the strains and pressures of everyday living to catch a clearer and more illuminating vision of the needs and aspirations of all humanity—adults and little children alike.

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At this time parents and teachers pause to think through the aims and purposes of the parent-teacher movement—to feel the breadth of understanding and the richness of experience which have come from their working together towards a common goal and for a common good.

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The December issue of the *National Parent-Teacher* pauses too; and then seeks to present on its pages the needs of children and the aspirations of adults. Thus this issue becomes a Christmas issue not only in its mood of holiday festivity but also in its spirit which is attuned to the worldwide endeavor to achieve a society in which peace on earth, goodwill to men may truly reign.

The National Parent-Teacher wishes you a Happy Christmas